Vancouver

NO. 6 MAY 1989

ECOMEDIA

FREE

BUILDING RESISTANCE

FIGHTING FASCISM

More than just Words

With the rise to power of right-wing governments in Canada, the US, and the UK, and even strong showings of explicitly neo-nazi candidates in several European elections, an atmosphere of neo-fascism has crept upon us.

Throughout N. America the most startling expansion in the extreme rights' ranks has been the influx of nazi skinheads, a pattern that also developed with the rise of the National Front in England in the mid-70s'. In the past skinheads came from the punk scene in N. America, and although never explicitly nazi they did have a violent, homophobic tendency. Within the last couple of years however a growing number of nazi skins have made links with established racist organisations such as the *Ku Klux Klan* & the *Aryan Youth Movement*. Indeed, the AYM has been quick to exploit alienated white youth using the same tactics as the NF in England; using 'white-power' bands ala Skrewdriver to spread their message of racism. More ominously, the AYM is the 'youth wing' of the *White Aryan Resistance*. WAR was formed in 1982 by Tom Metzger, the AYM is run by his son John. Daddy Metzger was formerly leader of the California KKK & won a Democratic primary for congress in 1980. WAR is a shining example of the new extreme right in N. America in that it has developed a relatively slick image (Metzger is host of *Race & Reason*, a white-supremacist cable show) for public relations purposes & actually proclaims itself not to be racist, but instead racialist! This is part and parcel of the new '*Third Positionist*' stance, developed by Italian fascists, which supposedly opposes both capitalism and communism & claims it is a revolutionary movement aimed at throwing the US gov't. In its place a white nation would be constructed. In 1987 Robert Miles, a self-styled "Klanarchist", who spoke similiar anti-statist rhetoric, was charged with conspiring to overthrow the US gov't. & establish an Aryan nation.

The rise of this new strategy reached a violent peak in 1983 with the activities of the *Order*. The Order, upon which the movie *Betrayed* was based, was an underground armed group that carried out counterfeitting, armoured car robberies, & murders netting more than $4 million. Only $1 million has been recovered and it is alleged that Metzgers WAR recieved art least $300,000. Today we are now seeing a new rise in racist violence, carried out increasingly by the 'frontline soldiers', the nazi skins. Targets for nazi skin attacks are non-whites, gays/lesbians, leftists, punks, 'race-traitors'. A leaflet posted in San Francisco, a fairly active area for nazi skins, reads: "Attention! Punks, Communists, Anarchists, Hippies and Homosexuals; You are the enemies of America and the American way of life. We the skinheads will not tolerate your spreading of unwanted diseases both physical and mental... your days are numbered." Some of the more prominent incidents have been an Ethiopian student beaten to death in Portland, a homeless man doused with gasoline & burnt to death, a stabbing death in San Jose, a drive-by shooting in Reno, the crucifixion of a former AYM leader after he renounced his racist past, as well as hundreds and hundreds of knifings, shootings and assaults throughout most major urban areas in the US, including Toronto and Montreal. In fact Toronto has long been a bastion for neo-nazi/kkk organising, and now sports the *Nationalist Party* (led by Donald Andrews, former member of the KKK front group Western Guard). Andrews Nationalist Party recently provided 35 nazi skins as security for a speaker in Toronto who preached how blacks were inferior to whites and chinese. Also, in Alberta 2 members of the Canadian KKK were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder a jewish businessman. The activities of the extreme-right with-in Canada has also reached more public figures such as Conservative MP John Gamble, who has been linked to the ultra-right *World Anti-Communist Leagues'* Canadian branch, the Canadian Freedom Foundation. The CFF was intensively involved in fundraising for Reagans contras and the Afghan Mujahadeen. Gamble, director of a company connected with Contragate arms deal with Iran, has resigned from the WACL. Despite this PR trick the Canadian branch has been highly succesful in gaining support from right-wing MPs', according to a report in *This Magazine*.

In Vancouver nazi skins are attempting to organise, though at this point there numbers are between 12-14. Hate literature distributed by these nazis had a Mission PO Box. Mission, a short drive outside of Vancouver, was also a fairly active area for KKK organising in the early '80s, including mission resident & bus driver David Harris. Harris admittadely attended Klan meetings and was acquitted of murder in the stabbing death of a passenger on his bus. A 1981 news article identified Harris a klan member and "commander" who used his weapons training to conduct "rudimentary arms trg. of Klan members".

One recent piece of toilet paper, the "*Life Gazette*", containing extremely anti-gay & misogynist material, was distributed by 5 nazi skins at a pro-choice rally in Vancouver. The Life Gazette is spewed out of the Northstar Free Press Inc. 10688 King George Hwy. Surrey BC, Box 498.

There have been sporadic attacks by nazi skins against homosexuals, non-whites, throughout Vancouver in the past half-year. However, with the introduction of the propoganda mentioned above, and the signals of actual organising attempts, these attacks will most certainly increase in frequency as well as escalate in intensity. The pattern of recruitment, training, organising, propoganda, and violence has occurred again and again, we must learn from the experiences of other cities and how they've begun to deal with neo-nazi skinheads. In England the NF, though still active, has been basically crippled by the anti-fascist forces. Racist rallys' are strongly resisted and at times attacked, meetings have been busted up, and a high level of intelligence gathering monitors what the boneheads are up to. In some cities in the US anti-racist skins have physically confronted nazi skins, whilst carrying out some educational work and persuading lesser-committed nazis to leave the ranks of the fascists. Anti-fascists in the US also have 'wipe-out racist graffitti' days, confront nazi skins at demos sometimes beating them. An Aryan 'Woodstock' which took place in March in California was met by 1,000 protesters, 500 kops (to protect the nazis?) and a lowly 70-100 nazi skins. A klansmen was beaten and a kop attempting to protect him was also beaten. White supremacist bands were prevented from reaching the 'Woodstock' so the nazis had to hang about in the drizzling rain. But perhaps the strongest anti-nazi activities come, not surprisingly, from West Germany. Allegedly one of the most active anti-fascist groups is the anarchist based Hamburg ***Anti-Fascist Action***. Reportedly it has its own Investigation Unit to monitor fascists, build up files, photos, list of car license plates etc. A regular intelligence newsletter put out by the anarchists informs activists about the movements of known fascists and contains 'hit lists'. In another city anti-fascists regularily put up 'wanted' posters of local fascists. In the last 12 months there have been over 20 violent attacks- mostly firebombings- against the homes and meeting places of the fascists. Cars owned by fascists are frequently torched. Indeed the extreme-right are now comlaining about the highly discriminate systematic attacks and want greater protection from the state- *those poor nazis!*

Our own response to the new attempts of fascism should be to take the offensive in smashing their organising attempts now, before they are able to establish an effective base for fascist inspired violence.

Recent Developments

On April 10 the office of the *Green party* in Vancouvers East End was broken into, its files ransacked, its computer with membership lists stolen, and a fire was attempted but luckily the sprinkler system went on. Especially lucky for the people that live above the office in apartments. We know that members of the Green Party had written several letters to the Life Gazette and its advertisers only weeks before, and thus speculation as to the origins of the attack would seem to lead to elements of the extreme right.

On April 12th John Welsh, a 23 year old skin (one of four from Toronto now in Vancouver) fell to his death from a 5-storey warehouse. Welsh, wanted on fraud and assault charges in Toronto, was drinking with friends and 'play fighting' when he stumbled and fell.

Cont. on page 3

Gentrification is No Development

Class struggle in East End

If you thought all the yuppie condos springing up here in the East End were bad, wait 'til you hear this! A massive development has been proposed for the Commercial Dr. and Braodway intersection consisting of a 2-storey structure topped by a six storey commercial tower and a 16 storey residential tower. All this situated on the verge of a railway corridor that is used to transport hazardous goods. Because of the possibility of an accident, a potentially explosive one, the Vancouver Fire department has voiced serious concerns about the development, as have local residents.

But the situation of an 18 storey residential tower next to a dangerous railway is only one of many concerns. With the ongoing gentrification of the East End, this new investment by Intercon developments only promises higher property values meaning even more increased rents and property taxes. As well there will be heavier traffic problems with a predicted 240 cars an hour exiting from the complex. Traffic will also increase up Commercial Dr. making it even more dangerous, hazardous, and uncomfortable for pedestrians.

The East End, traditionally composed primarily of working class people, including immigrant families, native peoples, and single parents, continues to bear the brunt of yuppie expansion and 'development'. As we reported in *Vancouver Ecomedia no. 5*, there arte various ways to fight back and put pressure on rich parasites. We cannot rely on City Hall and other institutions of political hacks, their wallets and loyalty have always been with their class, the rich.

In regards to the Broadway and Commercial Dr. development, a public hearing was held on Apr, 20that the Trout Lake community centre. A large turn-out, between 325-375, showed up to hear the proposal by *Intercon*, as well as to voice their own opinions. The overwhelming majority of speakers were clearly opposed to the development, and some obviously angry. Many references to the East End made mostly by pro-development people showed their bigotted views as they called our community a "wasteland", "run-down", harbouring "undesirable developments". From our viewpoint the biggest "social problems" are in the form of greedy, parasitic yuppies and developers, an unfortuanate reflection of the intensive capitalist society we live in. Due to the long list of speakers, the public meeting has been re-scheduled to April 25th, 7:30pm at City Hall.

Serial Killer Kop

In recent months, Los Angeles prostitutes have been systematically murdered. The serial killer(s) has been attacking wimmin who work for drugs, commonly reffered to as "strawberries", and blowing off their heads.

Recently, LAPD cheif Daryl Gates announced at a press conference that the suspect is Deputy Rickey Ross. Supposedly, ballistics tests revealed that bullets from his service revolver murdered at least three wimmin. Gates also said that another nine masacres will prove to be his.

This whole press release reeks of a cover-up of more pigs. Firstly, I believe that there are two cops in every patrol car and seeing how some of the incidents supposed took place while Ross was on duty, at least one other kop is involved.

Also the straight out implication that Ross "will be" found guilty of nine other murders at least indicates that the knowledge of his activities may have existed for some time and at the most that many other kops are involved.

It is becoming an all too often occurence to see vigilante kops, who see themselves as morally superior, attempt to supposedly "clean-up" society of wimmin, prostitutes, non-white people, drug abusers and gays.

All too often all when only one murder is involved, a single pig gets off with only a paid vacation called a suspension, such as in the case when Allen Gosset, a Montreal kop, who was acquitted of the murder of Anthony Griffin, recieved a suspension with pay prior to the trial.

Seeing as in this case Ross is most probably going to jail, while most killer kops roam free, it could be quite probable that other pigs are linked to the murders and that Ross is the one who is going to fry for all of them.

Serial killers aren't simply messed up individuals. They are a symptom of a sverely dominating and imperialistic society. These killings seem to be entirely motivated by the illusionary and false moral superiority of men and a hate wimmin, prostitutes and drug abusers.

Self-Policing works for Natives

By electing a police force from band members, the 1,300 Cree Indians on Manitobas Split Lake reserve have virtually eliminated crime, and are now requesting that the RCMP discontinue its regular patrols there. The ten members of the force are elected every two years, recieve an honrarium of $150 per month, and voluntarily work as much as 60 hours a week. The jobs are informally rotated among band members, so that almost every adult male (why not female?) on the reserve works as a police officer at some point in his life.

One of the officers, Norman NcIvor, points out that the police are following an ancient tradition of peace-makers in the Indian culture. They break up disputes, keep alchohol out of the community, visit people in their homes to maintain good relationships, and enforce an 11pm curfew every night. They search cars and houses to enforce the liquour ban, and sometimes take cars away from drivers to enforce the curfew.

The elected police force is believed to be unique in Manitoba and perhaps in Canada, and while dozens of other Indian reserves are pleading for more RCMP officers to combat rising crime rates the success of the Split Lake force has left mounties there idle. The feds, however don't appreciate this evidence that their services are not necssary. The Indian Affairs Department refuses to provide any funds for the elected force, with a resulting shortage of vehicles and equipment, and the provincial justice system refuses to recognise the legitimacy of the elected police. (From *Toronto Ecomedia and Globe and Mail* 22-3-89)

Note; We do not agree with all methods of this new self-policing but find it inspiring in finding alternatives to statist solutions to social crime.

EXPROPRIATING THE JEWELLS

Italian Anarchists Arrested

On February 2nd, 1989 anarchist comrades Alfredo Bonanno and Guiseppe Stasi were arrested following an expropriation from a jewellry shop in Bergamo Italy. The charges are armed robbery, grevious bodily harm, and resisting arrest. In a declaration on Feb. 6th, they stated that the robbery was carried out due to the personal need for money and that this follows the anarchist tradition of redistributing wealth in a society based on social and economic inequality. Raids on the homes of other Italian anarchists have followed in Milan, Bregamo and Catania. Apparently the state is attempting to create a massive armed underground structure as it tries to include other activists in its searches, intimidations, and attacks. A "massive armed underground structure" that does not exist but if it did would allow the Italian state to strike at other revolutionary groups and persons. A fund has been opened to meet trial costs and contributions can be sent to the current postal account 16464950 in the name of Carmela Di Marca, Catania, in Italian lyre. Alternatively send it to *Vancouver Ecomedia* and we'll pass it on. Local Vancouver anarchists have also collected a small bit of money in solidarity with Bonanno and Stasi.

More Right-Wing Spies

Domestic surveillance at Summit demonstration in Toronto, June, 1988

It is now clear that there is an aggressive campaign underway by private right-wing information gathering groups who are targetting progressive individuals and organisations and selling the information to the FBI and other gov't. agencies.

The Heritage Foundation, a conservative group in the U.S. , released a report in 1980 which specifically recommended that the FBI contract out its dirty work, ie; wiretaps, illegal break-ins and thefts etc. It recommended "contracting with one of several of the many private groups taht have specialised in providing and disseminating relevant information with legal complications" . The Reagan administration acted on this report when, in Dec. 1981, Reagan signed Executive Order 12333 which permitted the FBI to contract with private groups for "intelligence" gathering. It further allows them to conceal the existence of these contracts;to carry out break-ins under "certain" (and classified) circumstances, and to accept any material it recieves regardless of how it was obtained and without having to question the people who obtained it.

The recent discovery of spies and infiltrators in the animal rights/liberation movements, working for Perceptions (see *Ecomedia Vancouver no. 5*) only serves to highlight the extensiveness of intelligence gathering operations. It is no longer just Central american or Black Liberation groups who are so-called "terrorist" threats but animal liberation, radical enviorenmentalists and anarchist groups around the world.

Other intelligence gatherers of the right-wing have been the *Zeus group*, who at one point contacted the *Anti-Authoritarian News Network* as Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Emerson several years ago, as well as the Arlington Virginia based **Eagle Research Group** who've just recently subscribed to the *Toronto Ecomedia Bulletin*.

When we think of infiltration we usually conjure up images of strange faces in group meetings encouraging absurd activities, causing internal conflicts and divisions, or simply providing misinformation. While these are still part of the states methods of counter intelligence, we must understand the other methods employed by the fascist right. We must be vigilant.

From *Ecomedia Toronto (whose sources include Counter Information Bulletin no. 31; and Mandate for Leadership-Policy Management in a Conservative Administration. The Heritage Foundation, 1980 Washington DC).*

SPACE ALIENS WALK FOR PEACE !

INCREDILE LASER SHOW!!!

Once again the great 'Walk for Peace' has gone off as a great success in the eyes of the organisers. Thousands of people walked, and thousands of dollars spent on adverts, security, and beauracracy, but just how productive is this annual event?

As with many single-issue campaigns, the Walk for Peace does a fine job of getting the message out of peace and happiness in our world, but fails miserably at making any real progress to reaching it. A once a year walk, organised and controlled by *End the Arms Race*, with a strict non-violence line and collaboration with cops and politicians, is entirely disempowering, boring, and ultimately counter-productive. *EAR* fails to analyse what the arms race is (both conventional ***and*** nuclear), what role big business capital plays in perpetuating the war economy,, and how imperialism shapes it.

The liberal cult of non-violence so prevalent in the 'peace movement', fails to confront the state & presents no radical challenge to militarism. They fail to see how the state relies on vast armies to maintain its' power & privelege, and thus believe the answer lies in parliamentary political reform. *EARs'* solution at last years walk was to 'Vote for Peace', vote for politicians who speak of peace; politicians who'd speak for anything to be elected! Politicians who've continually declared wars and maintained the apparattus to conduct them.

There is no compromise with militarism, oppressive mechanisms, & imperialism, nor the governments that maintain them. We think you know what we're talking about, and it isn't pacifist!

More than just Words *Cont. from page 1*

An ***Anti-Nazi League*** has formed in Vancouver, composed of various groups and individuals. Our experience with them has been one of a beauracratic tendency with a more or less 'non-violent' line, but a group we definetely support. To send a financial contribution or send information on fascist activity write; **Anti-Nazi League, 794-810 W. Broadway, Vancouver BC, V52 4C9 Canada.** *Ecomedia Vancouver* would also appreciate relevant information.

"I'm from the government...

I'm here to help you."

STATE INFILTRATES ITSELF

There is a high probability that breakins at the parliament hill office of Skeena mp Jim Fulton are related to his work in preparing a report on the environment. There are many clues which point to this including the fact that apparently nothing was missing, a large pile of files had been gone through, this was evident because certain files were out of order, a file relating to the nuclear industry was on the mp's assistant's, David Garrick, desk, out of place from before the break-in and a hand written copy of the report, which was left on Fulton's desk, was "all out of order."

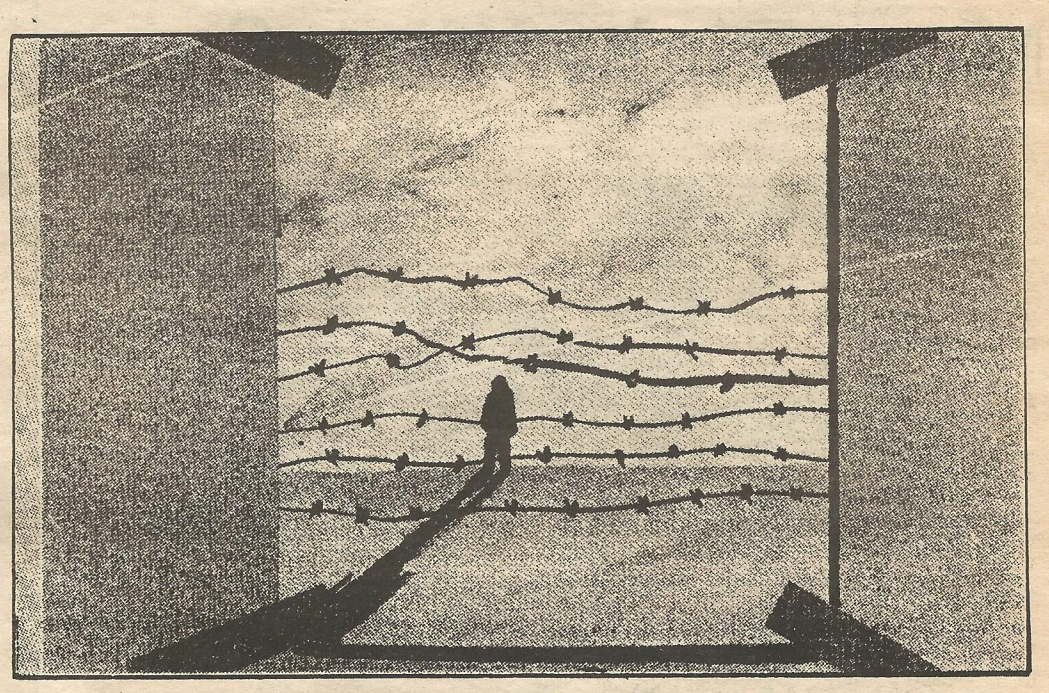
Fulton has suggested that the break-ins probably involve the military or the nuclear industry. Several clues point to this. Fulton was given documents that say the U.S. military has been conducting tests over Canada to punch holes in the ozone layer deliberately and files gone through in Fulton's office were related to the nuclear industry.

Also, three separate environmental groups, the *Ontario Enmvironmental Network*, the *Canadian Environmental Law Association and Scientist for Peace*, had their offices broken into. The three were listed as target groups to be infiltrated in a secret *Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.* memo. Last year the three environmental groups also recieved telephone calls from fake reporters seeking information.

"If you look at the common thread of the break-ins and the material Jim was given... it had something to do with sensitive documents someone believed to be in our hands and environmental issues that may embarass someone," said Garrick at a recent press conference in Ottawa.

It seems pretty obvious that certain people who control sensitive information about the environment don't want us to know exactly how much the has been destroyed.

HUNGERSTRIKE SOLIDARITY



On March 15 an estimated 250 political prisoners and prisoners of war joined in a strong symbolic protest with political prisoners on hungerstrike in Azania and FRG (West Germany). On January 23rd 170 Azanian political prisoners at Diepkloof prison initiated an unlimited (to the death) hungerstrike against preventive detention. They are joined by over 130 political prisoners at prisons in Durban and Port Elizabeth. On Feb. 1st 48 FRG political prisoners of the Red Army Faction, former guerilla group Junde 2nd Movement, and anti-imperialist resistance began an unlimited hungerstrike for political asociation and agaisnt isolation torture/sensory deprivation.

The call for the 24 hour solidarity fast in N. American prisons originated by 6 political prisoners convicted in the Resistance conspiracy case, accused of bombing the US capitol in 1983, declared the reasons for the protest; "Both of these hungerstrikes are unlimited (to the death), and represent the ultimate means of protest for any prisoner. In extending support to the hungerstrikers, the prisoners identify and demand an end to the weapons of political repression that have been employed against activists in the US as well.

"The prisoners of the RAF have been leading the fight against isolation torture internationally for 18 years. They have undertaken 9 hungerstrikes, resulting in 2 deaths and impaired health for may. Facing one of the most serious and sustained guerilla movements in Europe, the FRG has developed isolation/sensory deprivation as the weapon of choice."

As well, on march 13th 34 wimmin from the wimmins prison Plotzensee went on a 3 day solidarity hunger strike to publicise the strikers demands and also to fight for their own conditions. They must still work for 30-40 cents an hour wage and are isolated from other prisoners. On March 17th 7-8,000 people participated in a powerful demonstration in Hamburg.

The state uses its prisons to punish those who don't fit into its logic and uses these cages to silence those who resist its structure. The purpose of isolating political prisoners is to break their resolve and serve as an example to other activists who fight statist oppression. Don't forget our comrades, fighters friends in prison.

Source; Toronto Ecomedia

ANARCHIST VIDEO NITE

On April 19th/89 at La Quena Coffeehouse the ***Vancouver Anarchist Black Cross*** and ***Dawn of Liberty*** presented 2 videos. One on Japanese anarchist supporter Omori, now sentenced to death, and the other on East Timor. In East Timor a genocide is being carried out by Indonesian forces. Canada itself is involved considerably with support for Indonesia despite that countries vicious war carried out on the indigenous people of East Timor. A discussion followed the E. Timor video, "*Betrayed but Not Beaten*", on the current situation in that country.

THE STRATHCONA GARDENS

In Vancouver *Ecomedia No. 1* we reported on the struggle for the ***Strathcona Gardens***, in which people from this lower-income East End community had begun using a long abondoned vacant lot and created a community garden. The Chinese Free Masons wanted the lot to build a 4-storey senior citizens housing project. In October the Parks Board gave the gardens a 5-year lease for 3 acres of the site after a lengthy battle, and so the garden was forced with dilemna of totally restructuring their area. An incredible amount of work faced them, and then a group calling itself *Sterling Community Service Foundation* offered to make May 6-7th their community work day, offering to bring in 200 people. The garden is also appealing to people to come down and help out in fixing up the site, irrigation soil etc. The work will go ahead rain or shine, **May 6-7th at 9;30 am at 700 Prior st.** For more info phone 732-5235.

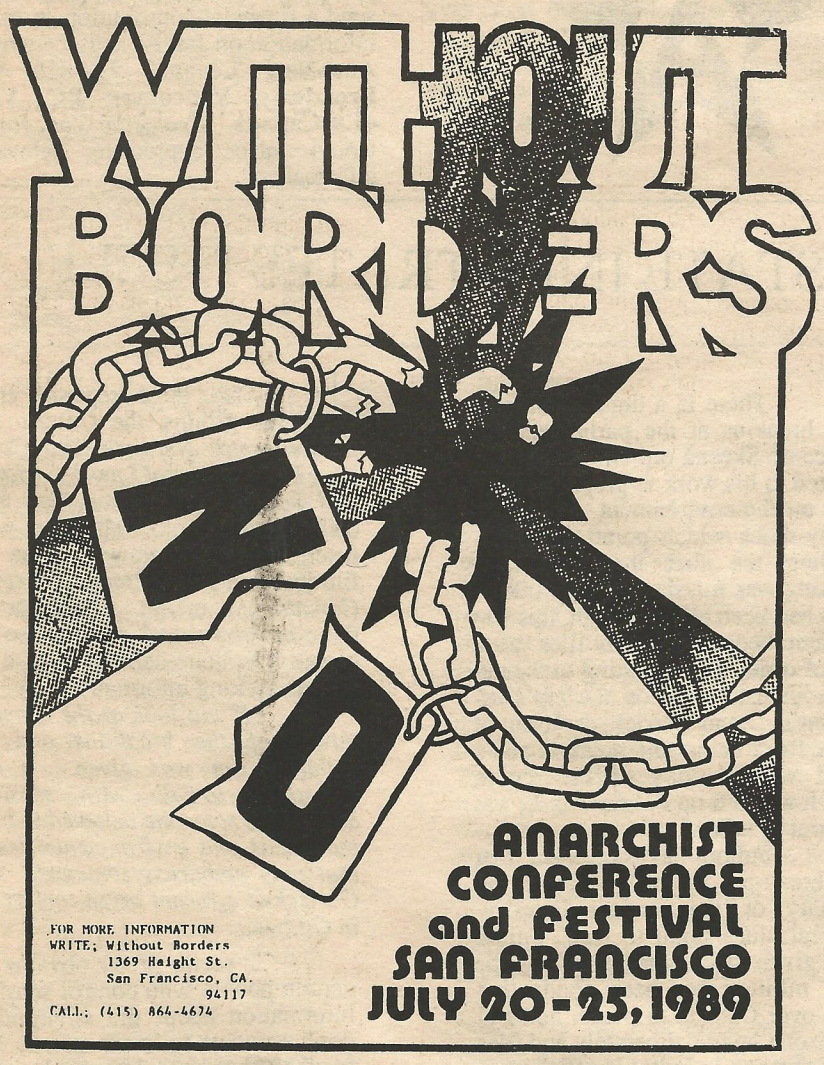
@ HOTLINE

Recently a phone line was aquired by a collective of people in town to be used as an information hotline on anarchist/anti-authoritarian events, shows and gatherings.

Anyone may leave information about events being organised and distribute the number widely.

Hopefully an answering machine will be aquired soon.

@ hotline : 255-6631



Calender of Events

APRIL 30th; MayDay Parade
Join the @ at Clark Park, at 14th and Commercial at noon.

May 6th & 7th; Community Service Day, Strathcona Community Gardens, 700 Prior St., 9:30 pm. Info. phone 732-5235.

May 28th; Vancouver Rape Relief and Womens Shelter, 9th Annual Walkathon. 11 am at Stanley Park

ECOMEDIA
VANCOUVER

Ecomedia Vancouver is an autonomous contact of the international ecomedia network which reports on actions and news from an anarchist perspective. We see our role as building and inspiring resistance to statist/authoritarian structures. Send news, communiques, & relevant information. If you are intertested in helping out with Vancouver Ecomedia, or want firther information, drop us a line at our new address;

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